

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A computerized method of providing billing information, comprising:

receiving, over a communications network, a request for summary billing information, the request being automatically generated by a billing portal in response to an action by a billable entity associated with the billing portal;

requesting, over the communications network and in response to said receiving the request for the summary billing information, the summary billing information from a supplier of the summary billing information;

receiving, over the communications network, the summary billing information and detailed billing contact information the supplier of the summary billing information, the detailed billing contact information specifying contact data for detailed billing information; and

transmitting, over the communications network to the billing portal, the summary billing information and the detailed billing contact information, the detailed billing contact information to be usable by the billable entity to access the detailed billing information from a supplier of the detailed billing information.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
prior to said receiving the request for the summary billing information, providing
software to the billing portal;
wherein on the billing portal the software, in response to the action by the billable
entity associated with the billing portal, exclusively causes the billing
portal to transmit the request for the summary billing information and to
receive the summary billing information and the detailed billing contact
information.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said providing the
software comprises:
transmitting, over the communications network, the software to the billing portal
to effect delivery and installation of the software.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the delivery, the
installation, and operation of the provided software are automatic with respect to
other human and machine activity at the billing portal.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the software comprises
one contiguous portion of dynamic HTML.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the software comprises
one contiguous portion of JavaScript.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the software when in an
uncompressed form has less than 80 bytes of information.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the detailed billing contact information comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that directs access to the detailed billing information located on the Internet.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the detailed billing contact information comprises an encrypted Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that authenticates an identity of one accessing information addressable by the Uniform Resource Locator.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
prior to said requesting the summary billing information, providing software to
the supplier of the summary billing information;
wherein on the supplier the software, in response to said requesting the summary
billing information, causes the supplier to transmit the summary billing
information over the communications network.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein
the summary billing information is received from the supplier of the summary
billing information in a first one of a plurality of different data formats;
and the method further comprises:
translating the summary billing information from the first one of a plurality of
different data formats into a predetermined data format.
- 12-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium storing instructions which when executed perform a method of providing billing information, the method comprising:
- receiving, over a communications network, a request for summary billing information, the request being automatically generated by a billing portal in response to an action by a billable entity associated with the billing portal;
- requesting, over the communications network and in response to said receiving the request for the summary billing information, the summary billing information from a supplier of the summary billing information;
- receiving, over the communications network, the summary billing information and detailed billing contact information from the supplier of the summary billing information, the detailed billing contact information specifying contact data for detailed billing information; and
- transmitting, over the communications network to the billing portal, the summary billing information and the detailed billing contact information, the detailed billing contact information to be usable by the billable entity to access the detailed billing information from a supplier of the detailed billing information.

26. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises:
prior to said receiving the request for the summary billing information, providing software to the billing portal;
wherein on the billing portal the software, in response to the action by the billable entity associated with the billing portal, exclusively causes the billing portal to transmit the request for the summary billing information and to receive the summary billing information and the detailed billing contact information.
27. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 25, wherein the detailed billing contact information comprises at least one of:
a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that directs access to the detailed billing information located on the Internet; and
an encrypted Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that authenticates an identity of one accessing information addressable by the Uniform Resource Locator.
28. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises:
prior to said requesting the summary billing information, providing software to the supplier of the summary billing information;
wherein on the supplier the software, in response to said requesting the summary billing information, causes the supplier to transmit the summary billing information over the communications network.

29. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 25, wherein the summary billing information is received from the supplier of the summary billing information in a first one of a plurality of different data formats; and the method further comprises: translating the summary billing information from the first one of a plurality of different data formats into a predetermined data format.
30. (Previously Presented) A data processing system, comprising:
means for receiving, over a communications network, a request for summary billing information, the request being automatically generated by a billing portal in response to an action by a billable entity associated with the billing portal;
means for requesting, over the communications network and in response to receiving the request for the summary billing information, the summary billing information from a supplier of the summary billing information;
means for receiving, over the communications network, the summary billing information and detailed billing contact information from the supplier of the summary billing information, the detailed billing contact information specifying contact data for detailed billing information; and
means for transmitting, over the communications network to the billing portal, the summary billing information and the detailed billing contact information, the detailed billing contact information to be usable by the billable entity to access the detailed billing information from a supplier of the detailed billing information.

31. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 30, further comprising:
means for, prior to receiving the request for the summary billing information,
providing first software to the billing portal; and
means for, prior to requesting the summary billing information, providing second software to the supplier of the summary billing information;
wherein on the billing portal the first software, in response to the action by the billable entity associated with the billing portal, exclusively causes the billing portal to transmit the request for the summary billing information and to receive the summary billing information and the detailed billing contact information; and
wherein on the supplier the second software, in response to said means for requesting the summary billing information, causes the supplier to transmit the summary billing information over the communications network.
32. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 30, wherein the detailed billing contact information comprises at least one of:
a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that directs access to the detailed billing information located on the Internet; and
an encrypted Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that authenticates an identity of one accessing information addressable by the Uniform Resource Locator.

33. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 30, wherein the summary billing information is received from the supplier of the summary billing information in a first one of a plurality of different data formats; and the system further comprises:
means for translating the summary billing information from the first one of a plurality of different data formats into a predetermined data format.